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News Items from the School of Education of the University of Chicago

SUBSIDIES FOR INVESTIGATIONS

Educational films as regular equipment for use by teachers, moving pictures as substitutes for books and lectures in schools and colleges, and lantern slides as substitutes for maps and charts have recently been brought to public attention by a number of commercial firms. Journals have been established to persuade parents and school officers that visual education is the coming form of teaching. In order to secure some carefully balanced judgments in regard to the value of these visual devices in teaching pupils, the Commonwealth Fund, of New York, has given Professor Freeman, of the University of Chicago, a subvention of \$10,000 to conduct a systematic study of the educational value of various kinds of pictures. Professor Freeman recently read a paper before the Educational Research Association which showed that many of the claims of film exploiters are ill founded in fact. The Educational Research Committee of the Commonwealth Fund decided that the problem which Professor Freeman and his assistants have been investigating is of such importance and general interest that funds should be supplied for a thorough investigation of the whole matter.

Professor Judd, of the School of Education, and Dean Marshall, of the School of Commerce and Administration, secured a subvention of \$14,000 from the same source for use in collecting and trying out in schools materials of instruction in the social sciences suitable for the upper grades of the elementary school and for high-school classes.

SUMMER QUARTER COURSES

Summer courses in the Geography Department will be given by Edith Parker and by George J. Miller, a visiting instructor

from the State Teachers College, Mankato, Minnesota. Mr. Miller is editor of the *Journal of Geography*. To meet the special needs of elementary and junior high school teachers of geography, Mr. Miller offers each term a course entitled the Organization of Geographic Problems, and Miss Parker gives each term a course dealing with the Technique of Teaching Geography in the Grades. These courses discuss concretely and in detail the selection and effective presentation of geographic materials in Grades III-IX inclusive.

For supervisors, principals, and superintendents, Investigations of Problems in Geography is offered by Miss Parker. It is concerned with such problems as the supervision of geography teaching, tests, the evaluation of texts, and the reorganization of geography curricula. Mr. Miller's course, Problems of Geographic Instruction in Normal Schools, is designed for normal-school instructors in geography and treats in detail the special problems that arise in this important field of geographic instruction.

The courses in mathematics for the Summer Quarter are planned particularly for teachers and supervisory officers in elementary schools, high schools, and teacher-training institutions. The courses will canvass the recent literature and summarize the most significant outcomes of recent experiments, movements, and tendencies in the technique of teaching and supervising mathematical studies. Recent findings of investigations in the laboratory schools of the University of Chicago will be included. The course in supervision by Mr. Breslich, offered for the first time as a summer course, will include much new material and many new points of view on the problems of supervising mathematics instruction. It cannot fail in its appeal to teachers and other school officers who are struggling with the problem of improving teaching in mathematics.

Detailed information concerning summer courses can be secured from the Summer Quarter Bulletin, which will be sent on request.